

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method for remotely collecting data from a dealer management system includes identifying a dealer management system that is coupled to a secure data access port. The secure data access port is also coupled to a public network, and the dealer management
5 system is coupled to at least one client device and is operable to process dealer initiated transactions from the client device. A remote system remotely connects to the dealer management system using the public network. The remote connection is a public connection established through the secure data access port, and the secure data access port is operable to pass remote transactions received from the remote system to the dealer management system.

10 A remote transaction is forwarded from the remote system to the dealer management system. The remote transaction includes a request for stored data and is given a priority level by the dealer management system that is similar to client initiated transactions. The requested data is received at the remote system from the dealer management system. In another aspect of the present invention, a system includes a secure data access port coupled to a public network
15 and a dealer management system. The dealer management system is coupled to at least one client device and is operable to process dealer initiated transactions from the client device. The secure data access port is cooperatively operable with the dealer management system to accept a remote connection from a remote system. The remote connection is established with the secure data access port, and the secure data access port is operable to pass remote
20 transactions received from the remote system to the dealer management system. The secure data access port is operative to receive a remote transaction from the remote system and forward the remote transaction to the dealer management system. The remote transaction includes a request for stored data and is given a priority level by the dealer management system that is similar to client initiated transactions. The secure data access port is operable

to forward the requested data received from the dealer management system to the remote system.